

## Hearst a Political Uncertainty.

In the face of the severe rebuke administered to Hearst's political ambition when, in the election held last Tuesday, all of the Democratic ticket was elected by comfortable pluralities with the exception of Hearst, who was defeated by a heavy vote, there are many thousands of thoughtful Americans now asking themselves these questions:

"What of Hearst politically in the future?"

"What will he do now?"

"What figure will he cut in the politics of the nation two years hence?"

If the subject of these speculations was any one except Hearst the question could be answered very easily by saying:

"He is a dead cock in the political pit."

But this answer will not do when W. R. Hearst, or, rather, William Randolph Hearst, as he styles himself when running for office, is considered.

For political resiliency Hearst is THE PURE PARA.

For COMING BACK HARD after a severe throwdown Hearst makes a rubber ball look like a doorknob.

For any other man in this country today or for any man who has been on the political stage during the past half century a rebuke like that administered to Hearst at the polls this week would be a finisher, but for Hearst it may be something entirely different, for no one can tell about Hearst.

When Hercules was accomplishing his twelve labors, he met on his travels one day the giant Antaeus, who challenged him to wrestle. Hercules had little difficulty in throwing him, but Antaeus, who was the son of Earth, gained new strength each time he came in contact with his mother and rose up ready for the contest with chances for success increasing. Finding that he could not conquer him by throwing him, Hercules held him up in the air over his head, and being deprived of the support of his mother, the giant was easily overcome.

Hearst seems to gain increased strength from each defeat, and as he gets his power to wage his contest FROM THE MONEY WHICH HIS NEWSPAPERS MAKE FOR HIM, this power increases each time he pulls off one of these contests.

He has what might be termed a SELF-AUGMENTING campaign fund.

He may spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in a campaign for the nomination for president; he may spend many thousands trying to be elected mayor of Greater New York, and some hundreds of thousands more in organizing, perfecting and carrying out plans for other campaigns, and each time he goes through one of these campaigns and pours out this money necessary to prosecute them, HE COMES BACK RICHER THAN BEFORE.

His newspapers make more money out of the campaigns than he spends. The increased sales of his various newspapers, and the consequent increase of advertising patronage commanded by them MORE THAN MAKE UP THE COST OF HIS CAMPAIGNS.

As certain as he goes into a campaign, so certain is it that all the other newspapers line up against him. They do this not so much from principle, but because it is a matter of business foresight for them to keep down as much as possible the ever-increasing tide of Hearst's newspaper prosperity. Thus it happens that everybody, his friends as well as his enemies, buys Hearst's newspapers during Hearst's campaigns—the former to see how he is slaying the enemy, and the latter to see what particular line of attack he has opened up as each new day dawns. For Hearst can find a sensation to spring as often as there are days in which to spring them.

So, as Antaeus gained new strength from each fall he received at the hands of his unconquerable foe, Hearst GAINS ADDITIONAL SINEWS OF WAR FROM EACH CONTEST HE WAGES.

As Antaeus was overcome by being separated from the source of his strength, so Hearst can be eliminated as a political factor when the circulation of his newspapers begins to wane.

I do not look for the shelving of Hearst at any day likely to dawn soon. It is certain that several years must pass before he joins the ranks of political has-beens adorned by so many names that once were potent to kindle the fires of political enthusiasm.

I think it unfortunate that Hearst should not have been elected Governor of New York.

He has promised so much for the people and he has REALLY DONE SO MANY THINGS that he is entitled to a place where he could have the power to carry out his ideas if he was sincere, and to demonstrate for all time his insincerity if he is a demagogue.

He has not been proven to be a demagogue, although he often talks like one.

Just as we are about to make up our minds to put him in this class he does some bold, original, forcible, practical thing, like the bringing of the Coal Trust to time, or the securing of the 80-cent gas rate, or the over-reaching of the Sugar Trust.

This view must present itself to anyone who will think about Hearst calmly, even though he may have a personal distaste for the man, and for what the name has come to signify.

Those who know Hearst have no doubt of his sincerity even though they may not approve of his garrish, vainglorious antics in journalism and in politics.

I know Hearst; not in a personal sense, because while I have a personal acquaintance with him, it is very slight. I know him in a different way. I know him because I studied him for a year while doing newspaper work in New York. I studied him because I was there to study newspaper making, and Hearst was then, as he is now and will be for some years, THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN NEWSPAPER CIRCLES IN NEW YORK.

I wanted to learn about this man, who invaded the greatest newspaper center on this continent and in ten years took the lead in it.

I made diligent inquiry among the newspaper men of New York—those who worked for Hearst, those who worked for rival newspapers, those who liked him, those who disliked him, those who praised him and those who damned him—with the question ever on my tongue: "What is he; tell me all you know about him." And although there were vague stories of what Henry Watterson calls "the shame of the Newport set," I FOUND NO MAN in that year of inquiry who could say THAT HEARST WAS GUILTY OF ANY PARTICULAR BREACH of the moral, business or social code, and CITE A FACT TO PROVE IT.

I concluded then (and I have since had no reason to change my opinion) that Hearst must be pretty straight in all of these things, because if he had not been, SOMEBODY would have been in position, at SOME TIME during those ten years, TO CALL THE TURN on SOME shady transaction in business or in morals.

Lincoln Steffens describes Hearst as a man of mystery. Greelman, in HIS magazine sketch, pronounced him a supreme egotist. Other writers have said that he is a money-laden nonentity, who has only sense enough to buy the best quality of brains.

HEARST IS MORE THAN ANY OF THESE—he is about the only big

talker of my acquaintance or knowledge who is ALSO A BIG DOER.

He wears the bell-bottomed frock coat of the Parisian boulevards whenever he goes abroad, but he tackles the forces THAT PREY ON THE POOR AND THE UNFORTUNATE with a vigor and intelligence and a tireless energy that does not usually go with blond trousers and long-tailed coats.

He wears an automobile and an opera hat, but he knows all about the troubles and struggles of those who work with their hands AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN WILLING, ANXIOUS AND ABLE TO HELP THEM.

He tries to get bigger lumps of ice for the dwellers in tenements with as much zeal and persistence as he uses when he knocks on the door of the Supreme Court of the United States with an appeal to correct the Trust evil.

Yes, he has done many great things, and to the doer of great things we should not look with too critical an eye in passing in review the small things he does.

Hearst will continue to be a BIG FACTOR IN POLITICS as long as he is THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN JOURNALISM in this country.

I think he would have been elected Governor of New York if he had not allowed himself to attack Hughes so bitterly and personally. He should have confined himself to attacking those who were behind Hughes. His cue was to have praised his opponent as a good man whom the evil powers that dominate the Republican party were using as an anchor cast to windward to keep them off of a lee shore.

After all Hearst was the strongest man that the New York Democrats have found to bear their political standard since Dave Hill carried the State ten years ago, for he polled more votes than any other Democrat who has run since that time.

## Drainage Will Go On

To the people of Florida who will derive great good and increased prosperity from the successful carrying out of the project of draining the Everglades, I desire to say: That they need not despair of the attainment of this benefit.

## THE EVERGLADES WILL BE DRAINED.

It will be done by the present Board of Trustees and their successors in office.

The present board will carry on this work, because they are convinced that it is their duty to do so, and because they are certain that great good will come of it to the people of the State.

Their successors in office will carry on this work because the people of Florida can be relied upon to elect good men to office—

AND NO FIVE MEN WHO CAN QUALIFY FOR A SUCCESSFUL RACE IN THE PRIMARIES CAN STUDY THIS QUESTION AND ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION DIFFERENT FROM THE VIEW HELD BY THE PRESENT BOARD.

No five men who will look into this question can do otherwise than prosecute this work, because they in turn will become as much enthused with its importance as a great State work, as they are bound to be impressed with their obligation as public servants to prosecute it.

Therefore, the Everglades will be drained and the WORK WILL NOT STOP.

The people own two powerful dredges. There is sufficient money in the trust fund now to operate these two dredges for some time. The trustees ARE CLOTHED WITH FULL POWER to sell any and all of the lands now remaining in their hands FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION.

There have been applications made continuously for State lands held by the trustees. With the exception of 59,000 acres, 44,000 ACRES OF WHICH ARE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, sold to Joe Jennings at 41 2/3 cents an acre, the trustees HAVE MADE NO SALES since the adoption of the drainage act and the constitutional amendment, which has been defeated.

I say that the trustees have sold no lands. Occasionally they have made deeds to a two-acre tract or a three-acre tract or a ten-acre tract of somebody's previous selection, scattered around in different parts of the high lands of the State, BUT NO SALES OF LARGE BODIES HAVE BEEN MADE.

The reason no sales have been made was that the trustees were trying to avoid selling these lands at the price that could be obtained for OVERFLOWED LAND while the constitutional amendment was pending, because if the amendment had been ratified it would not have been necessary to sell any more State lands to raise money to drain the Everglades until reclaimed land could be offered.

The trustees, after a careful study of this question, conceived the idea that it would be best for the people of this State if all the lands which were to be benefited by drainage should bear the burden. The people have now sustained the trustees in this view. By their votes rejecting this amendment they have declared that IT IS THEIR DESIRE THAT THE EVERGLADES SHALL BE DRAINED AND THE PEOPLE SHALL BEAR THE WHOLE COST.

That was the question that was decided last Tuesday, and now the Everglades will be drained and the people will bear the whole cost, because the people's land will be sold at the best prices that can be obtained for it to procure money to pay the cost of drainage.

The people have given the railroads and other corporations THIRTY-NINE-FORTIETHS of their lands.

By rejecting this amendment they have now declared their purpose to take the water off of them.

## THEY HAVE GIVEN THE CORPORATIONS THE EARTH.

## THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED TO PUT A FENCE AROUND IT.

In the meantime the people's dredge is at work and the other dredges belonging to the people will soon be at work.

The first canal is being cut and, the Times-Union Van Duzer V. P. Kellan and other pipe dreamers to the contrary notwithstanding, the operations of these two dredges will, within twelve months, reclaim 92,000 acres of land which will find purchasers eager for it at prices sufficient to keep the dredges going and build others to help them, so that other canals may be cut.

Before the terms of the present trustees have expired I predict that the people WILL SEE A NEW LIGHT on this drainage question, because the scales put before their eyes by the persons who do not like to pay for the benefits of drainage will fall away.

## I said in an editorial some weeks ago, "Ware the Dredge."

I say it again, "Ware the Dredge," for the dredge is working, and a practical demonstration made by the two dredges will do more to enlighten the people than Governor Broward has been able to do on the stump or this humble scribe has been able to do by his presentation of it.